



Plane Talk



May 2003

167th Airlift Wing, WVANG

Next UTAs 7-8 June

President Bush Proclaims End to Major Combat Operations in Iraq

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

5/2/2003 - **WASHINGTON** — Major combat operations in Iraq are over, and America and her allies have prevailed, President Bush said this evening on the flight deck of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

“In this battle we have fought for the cause of liberty and for the peace of the world. Our nation and our coalition are proud of this accomplishment,” Bush said aboard the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln as the sun set on the Pacific Ocean. “Yet it is you, the members of the United States military, who achieved it. Your courage, your willingness to face danger for your country and for each other made this day possible.

“Because of you our nation is more secure,” the commander in chief said to cheering sailors. “Because of you, the tyrant has fallen and Iraq is free.”

With a huge red, white and blue banner declaring “Mission Accomplished” hanging in the background, Bush told the crew that the American military’s precision, speed and boldness led to “one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history.”

The Lincoln has been at sea for 10 months. She was ready to head home after duty in the Afghan theater during Operation Enduring Freedom, when the ship and her 5,000-mem-



President George W. Bush walks across the tarmac with NFO Lt. Ryan Phillips to Navy One, an S-3B Viking jet, at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

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U.S. Aircraft Leaving Saudi Arabian Base

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

4/29/2003 - **PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia (AFPN)** — Department of Defense officials said the combined air operations center here will be mothballed and all U.S. aircraft operating at the base will be gone by August.

The decision was made by “mutual agreement,” said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld following a meeting with Saudi defense minister bin Sultan in Riyadh on April 29. The secretary and minister discussed the changes taking place in the region.

“It is now a safer region with the change of regime in Iraq,” Rumsfeld said. But this does not mean an end to the Saudi-U.S. relationship, he added. The military training and exercise program will move to the fore, and in the months and years ahead, the air base could still be used temporarily for exercises.

The mission of the center has already passed to Al Udeid Air Base in neighboring Qatar.

“All air-tasking orders began coming from Al Udeid (April 28),” said Navy Rear Adm. Dave Nichols, coalition air component deputy commander. The center, air command and control center, and all services and nationalities participating in the coalition are commanded through the CAOC.



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks to troops during a meeting in a hangar at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia on April 29. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Michael Best)

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Mountaineer Pride Worldwide

Commander's View

I just returned from a Weapon Systems Council meeting, and several changes are in the making. First, Operation Iraqi Freedom is winding down, and our deployed members will soon return. We, the C-130 community, must now transition back into the



AEF structure to support our forces worldwide. Second, the possibility exists that Operation Coronet Oak will terminate operations out of Puerto Rico as early as Sept. 1. Third, Air Mobility Command has numerous units that have exceeded the five-year point since their last Operation Readiness Inspection. We are scheduled for a Unit Compliance Inspection in June 2003 and an EORI in December 2004. The UCI is planned to go as scheduled, but the EORI may be scrutinized over the coming year.

After a major conflict, all of the above and more are to be expected. Operations will eventually smooth out so that we can return to our normal activities. I encourage people to stay involved and stay trained, and we'll get through this as we always do. Thanks for everything you have done.

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Commander
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Doing Things Right or Doing the Right Things

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dennis E. Yocum

Doing things right is important, but doing the right things is more important. Some years ago a friend of mine was doing well in his job and regularly was showered with praise and salary increases. He was doing things right at work and being rewarded. Eventually, he became suspicious of the inconsistent accounting practices of his supervisor. Something was not right, but he was hesitant to think ill of his boss.

Before he had decided what he should do, the supervisor was indicted and charges were also filed against my friend. Unknowingly, he had participated in an illegal scam. The supervisor went to jail, and my friend was acquitted. For not blowing the whistle in time, my friend was fired. He had done things right on the job in his supervisor's eyes, but he had not done the right things. His integrity was questioned and he paid a price.

An Army Guard General whom I know personally went bankrupt when his business failed. Although bankruptcy released him from business debts, over the next ten years, at great personal sacrifice, he paid back everything he had owed. What a high standard of personal integrity he set! He may not have done things right in business, but he did the right things.

As a boy, Chiune Sugihara dreamed of becoming Japan's ambassador to Russia. By the 1930s, as ambassador to Lithuania, he was only a step away from fulfilling his dream.

One morning, a huge throng gathered outside his home. Sugihara learned they were Jews who had fled to Lithuania from Poland. They sought the ambassador's help in securing Japanese visas that would permit them to escape the German Gestapo.

Three times Sugihara wired Tokyo for permission to provide the visas; three times he was rejected. Sugihara chose to disobey orders. For the next 28 days he wrote visas by hand, barely sleeping or eating. When he was recalled to Japan, he departed still writing visas and shoving them through the train window into the hands of refugees running alongside.

Ultimately his work saved 6,000 lives. Back in Japan, Sugihara's remaining days were spent selling light bulbs. When his story was finally told, his son was asked, "How did your father feel about his choice?"

"My father's life was fulfilled. When God needed him to do the right thing, he was available to do it."

Sometimes the cost of maintaining personal integrity is high, but it is worth the cost. Integrity and peace of mind cannot be bought. Don't just do things right. Make sure you do the right things.

President Bush *continued from page 1.*

ber crew were turned around to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The longest deployment in recent memory, Bush called it.

The president had flown out to the carrier at sea earlier in the day aboard a Navy jet. Emerging from the co-pilot's seat in a military flight suit, he gained the admiration of many of the sailors for his tailhook landing aboard the ship.

He delivered "a special message" to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Army Gen. Tommy Franks - the leader of coalition forces in Iraqi Freedom - and for all American service members: "America is grateful for a job well done."

Bush also thanked coalition countries, particularly Britain, Australia and Poland - who all contributed military forces - and the Iraqi people who welcomed American troops.

In a stirring speech punctuated by shouts of support and prolonged ovations, Bush compared the current conflict to the terrible battles of World War II that destroyed entire cities while leaving the tyrants who started the fighting unharmed.

"For hundreds of years of war, culminating in the nuclear age, military technology was designed and employed to inflict casualties on an ever-growing scale. Military power was used to end a regime by breaking a country," he said. "Today we have the greater power to free a nation by breaking a dangerous and aggressive regime. With new tactics and precision weapons, we can achieve military objectives without directing violence against civilians."

Difficult work remains in Iraq, Bush noted. Coalition forces are working to bring order to all parts of the country, pursuing and finding leaders of the former regime, and are searching for weapons of mass destruction.

Coalition countries are also working to help rebuild Iraq. "And we will stand by the new leaders of Iraq as they establish a government of, by and for the Iraqi people," the president added.

He linked the "battle of Iraq" to the broader war on terrorism, calling it part of a larger war begun on Sept. 11, 2001. "That terrible morning, 19 evil men, the shock troops of a hateful ideology, gave America and the civilized world a glimpse of their ambitions," Bush said. "By seeking to turn our cities into killing fields, terrorists and their allies believed they could destroy this nation's resolve and force our retreat from the world.

"They have failed," he added.

Operations in Afghanistan, the Philippines and the Horn of Africa are designed to hunt down al Qaeda operatives. "Nineteen months ago I pledged that the terrorists would not escape the patient justice of the United States," Bush said. "And as of tonight, nearly one half of al Qaeda's senior operatives have been captured or killed."

He told the troops the war on terrorism isn't over, but it isn't endless, either. "We do not know the day of final victory, but we have seen the turning of the tide," he said. "No act of the terrorists will change our purpose or weaken our

resolve or alter their fate. Their cause is lost. Free nations will press on to victory."

He said American troops never want to occupy foreign lands, because they just want to go home - just where the Lincoln is heading. The carrier will pull into port in San Diego early May 2. "Some of you will see new family members for the first time," Bush said, noting that 150 men aboard the Lincoln became new fathers while at sea.

But he did not forget the many service members who will not be returning to their families after their duty in Iraq. "Every name, every life is a loss to our military, to our nation, and to our loved ones who grieve. There's no homecoming for these families, yet we pray, in God's time their reunion will come," Bush said. "Those we lost were last seen on duty. Their final act on Earth was to fight a great evil and to bring liberty to others."



Family Readiness Group Sponsors Upcoming Events

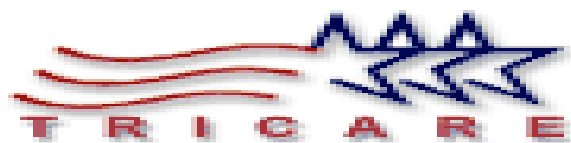
*By Susan Sanders, Family Readiness Program
Coordinator*

LAST CALL – Applications for Kids Kamp at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV, to be held June 14 to 19, are due May 15. The Military Point of Contact for each section can print a copy, or they are available in the Family Program Office (Building 110, beside the mail room) or by e-mailing Susan Sanders. The cost for each guard-dependent camper ages 9 to 13 is \$70. Youth counselors ages 15 to 18 and adult counselors are needed.

Jefferson County AARP is sponsoring an ice cream social Saturday May 10 at 2 p.m. at Sam Michaels Park (location of the Arts & Crafts Fair) for all area active duty military and their extended families. The event is free. Please call Roger Dailey at 724-7901, Al Cates at 728-2929 or Barbara Tucker at 725-7901 by May 5 if you plan to attend.

The Family Readiness Group's "Bring a Dish Luncheon" will be held Saturday May 31 at noon in the Dining Facility for families of the deployed and those in support of these families. Please call the Family Program Office at 262-5590 or e-mail them if you plan to attend.

Red, White and Blue Hearts and Stars are available at \$12 each. Family readiness is also taking orders for "Uncle Sam" lanterns, on sale for \$15. These items are available in the Family Program Office or will be for sale at the dining facility Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



TRICARE Fact Sheets Updated

TRICARE has updated fact sheets on two of its programs, TRICARE Prime Remote and the TRICARE Pharmacy Program. TRICARE Prime Remote provides active duty service members in the United States with the TRICARE Prime option while they are assigned to duty stations in areas not served by the traditional Military Health System. Members of the TRICARE Pharmacy Program, including Medicare-eligible beneficiaries age 65 and over, and can fill prescription medications at military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies, through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP), or at retail network and non-network pharmacies. Areas in the fact sheets that have been updated are presented in red.

The TRICARE Prime Remote sheet is at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=showfs&file_name=TPR%2Ehtm, and the TRICARE Pharmacy Program sheet is at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=showfs&file_name=Pharmacy%2Ehtm.

For general information on TRICARE, visit http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=TRICARE_Overview.htm



Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season began April 15 and will be closed June 30. The TSP is the federal government's version of the civilian work world's 401(k) retirement and investment savings program. The program, which began in 1987, but was only expanded to the military community in 2002, allows participants to shelter up to 8 percent of their basic pay from taxes, up to \$12,000. Once a service member decides what percentage of his or salary to contribute to the TSP each month, the government automatically takes the money from that person's paycheck before taxes are calculated. Earnings from the savings plan are tax deferred until the service member withdraws money from the plan, usually after retirement when he or she is in a lower tax bracket. Any changes you make to your TSP account during Open Season or before May 31 will take effect June 1 for both military members and civilians. Changes made on or after June 1 will become effective in the following pay period for civilians and the following month for military members. For more information on the TSP, visit <http://www.tsp.gov>

167th AW Promotions



TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
John D. Nelson **MDS**



TO CAPTAIN
Colleen J. Holder **AES**
Christopher S. Taylor **AES**



TO SECOND LIEUTENANT
Christopher R. Blackman **AS**
Thomas B. Hamilton III **AS**
Rodney E. Starkey **AS**



TO MASTER SERGEANT
Zoanne L. Petry **LRS**
Donnie R. Pruett **AS**



TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT
Wayne L. Gladden **MXS**
Jacqueline N. Moreno **MSF**
Colleen M. Smith **SVF**



TO STAFF SERGEANT
Charles E. Miller, Jr. **MXS**
Timothy A. Sencindiver **MXS**
Edwin O. Stanfield **MXS**



TO SENIOR AIRMAN
Blake W. Bennett **CES**
Jessica I. Camerlin **LRS**
Caleb C. Twigg **SFS**
Derek L. Miller **MXS**
Charles R. D. Moore **AS**
Steven E. Rau **AW**

Welcome to the 167th Airlift Wing

Robert F. Beckwith	AS
Daniel L. Espenscheid	AS
Patrick D.G. Jansen	CES
John W. Matlock	CES
Johnathan L. McCracken	AS
Douglas G. Picard	CES
Jeffrey J. Romonko	AS
Edward L. Weigman	AS
Heather R. Wright	CES

Que Pasa!

Logistics Readiness Squadron – Master Sgt. Gene Kesecker

Congratulations to the following individuals who recently returned from technical training:

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Morris, LGSP, graduated from 7-level, 2S072, Supply Systems Analyst Craftsman school at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Senior Airman Nathan Mueller, LGSP, graduated from 3-level, 2S032, Supply Systems Analyst Apprentice School at Lackland. While there, Nathan was recognized for his distinguished work in assisting with the class honor guard unit and scored in the 97 percentile of his class.

Senior Airman Cortney Blanchfield graduated from 3-level, 2S031, Supply Management Apprentice School at Lackland. There, she was recognized for her outstanding achievements, receiving the Commander's Distinguished Graduate Award, and graduated in the top of her class.

Staff Sgt. Jason Bowers graduated with a GPA of 94 percent from 3-level Supply Management Apprentice School at Lackland.

We are extremely proud of these individuals and welcome them back with us.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Christopher Croson, of supply's LGSD flight, upon his selection to the Management and Systems Officer's position in Supply. He will be leaving for the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson AFB, Knoxville, Tenn., this month to begin his officer training.

LRS Family Readiness Representatives Senior Airman James Decicco and his wife, Lisa, are our new Family Readiness Team, taking over for Tech. Sgt. Debbie Payne, who recently transferred to the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Master Sgt. Charles Palmer, Jr. was recently selected as the new Logistics Readiness Squadron's First Sergeant, replacing Senior Master Sgt. Larry Schaeffer. The new First Sergeant, known to many as "Chip," assumed the duties effective April UTA weekend. Palmer has been a faithful, long-time member of the unit and the Logistics squadron. Palmer began his career with the 167th in the Security Forces squadron when entering the unit. Palmer said that he wants to "do the squadron right by doing what's right and fair for its members." We congratulate First Sgt. Palmer and look forward to working with him.

Congratulations to Senior Master Sgt. Mark Abe of Supply's Combat Operations Support Flight upon his recent selection as the flight's new supervisor and his promotion to Senior Master Sergeant.

Maintenance Squadron – Maj. Robert Barrat and Tech. Sgt. Sam Rickabaugh

Longtime aircraft maintenance member Senior Master Sgt. Charles "Charlie" Sheppard retired last drill. He joined the 167th in April 1964, 39 years ago, serving his entire military career as an Air National Guardsman. He began in the corrosion control shop and ended as the fabrication shop section supervisor. He plans on staying in the Martinsburg area, working as an independent electrical contractor and volunteering with the Moose club when he is not busy with his two children. He will be missed by all those who know and worked with him.

If you see Senior Airmen Dirk Slonaker or Adam Tournay today, congratulate them for their 92 percent scores in their avionics CDC testing. Avionics is a particularly difficult career field.

1st Lt. Stacy Shade wins the most spiffy military uniform/haircut combo in the maintenance squadron for May UTA, traditional guardsman division. Senior Master Sgt. Steve Cloonan wins the most spiffy military uniform/haircut combo for the technician division also for this drill. However, the rater notes competition is not as fierce this drill, Tech. Sgt. Gary Diffenderfer and 1st Lt. Eric Widmeyer are deployed, Tech. Sgt. Roberta Gossard is at tech school and Jones recently retired.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed! The security police will be conducting "CLICK-IT or TICKET" inspections on base in the near future. Failure to properly wear your seatbelt will result in a written ticket, which must be "paid" to your commander. Take the few extra seconds it takes to make sure you and your passengers are all buckled up before driving.

Remember HYDRATE HYDRATE HYDRATE? The month of May marks the start of the summer season, and the average human body is supposed to take in 64 ounces of fluid a day to keep all organs healthy. Beer and most sodas don't count towards this amount, and a recent study showed most Americans don't receive the suggested amount.

Lt. Cols. Keith Snyder and Phill Michael are due to graduate from the Army War College, Carlisle, Penn., on June 7, 2003. They are to receive a Master's degree as well as a diploma for course completion. We are proud of them and hope to be able to hear all about it on the July drill.

And finally, Master Sgt. Dirk Stymiest, and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Meadows, maintenance operations squadron technicians, are both glad the warm weather has returned after such a long cold winter. The Dirkster wants to get out and twist the throttle back on his Harley Davidson, and Bob wants to get out on the golf course to shoot a few rounds. Until next drill, be safe!

Worth Repeating

"Justice denied anywhere diminishes justice everywhere."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Air National Guard
Americans At Their Best.

VA Reduces SGLI Premiums for Military and Family Coverage

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, AFPS

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2003— The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that premiums for the Service members Group Life Insurance will be reduced, handing military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy — the maximum coverage — will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings. The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that rates for Veterans Group Life Insurance will not change.

Tom Tower, DoD's assistant director for military compensation, welcomed the reduced premiums, adding that anytime you put "more money in the pockets of military members, it's always a good result."

Premiums will also be reduced for SGLI family coverage, with rates varying among age groups.

The largest saving will go to spouses between 35 and 39 years old, whose premiums will be nearly cut in half. Service members currently pay \$13.00 for a \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July — a

\$5.50 savings.

The reduced rates mean a military family will save an average of \$100 a year. The VA estimates that service members collectively will save about \$96 million annually in premiums, and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year.

Tower said the reduced premiums are a result of an ongoing process to keep costs down for military members.

"The VA regularly checks to see how much is paid out versus how much is collected in premiums, and whenever it seems like they have built up premium reserves, they like to reduce premiums to keep the cost to a minimum for the member," Tower said. "It's part of the objective of the program: to provide the lowest cost possible."

SGLI began in 1965 to meet the insurance needs of Vietnam-era service members. Before SGLI, the military provided \$10,000 policies to service members, and policies were available to active-duty military only.

Today the SGLI program provides coverage of \$250,000 to active duty service members and most Reservists. Coverage of \$100,000 has also been provided for spouses of participating members with free coverage of \$10,000 for dependent children. Reduced levels of coverage may also be elected.

Information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at www.insurance.va.gov, or call the Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
Air National Guard
Americans At Their Best.

Prince Sultan AB

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The Prince Sultan center handled air sorties and targets for Operation Iraqi Freedom; the Al Udeid center handled mission planning for Operation Enduring Freedom and for the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The shift increases the Al Udeid workload, but not intolerably, officials said. On its first day handling the Operation Iraqi Freedom requirement, the Al Udeid CAOC generated about 700 air missions, they said. About 100 were standby close-air-support missions, and about 400 were airlift missions. The rest were tanker and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

The U.S. aircraft were at the Saudi base to enforce the U.N.-mandated Operation Southern Watch. That operation began 12 years ago at the end of the Persian Gulf War. In the beginning, U.S., British and French aircraft enforced the no-fly zone south of the 33rd parallel. France dropped out of that coalition years ago, but the U.S. and the United Kingdom pilots kept on. The necessity for that operation ended March 19 with the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the height of Iraq war, Prince Sultan based about 200 coalition aircraft. Officials said everything from fighters to airborne warning and control system aircraft flew from there.

There are currently 100 aircraft based at Prince Sultan, and officials expect the last American plane to leave the base in August. It is unclear whether a small cadre of Americans will remain to keep the base ready in case of emergency, officials said.



Staff Sgt. Sarah Hostetler of the Multi-Media Support Section was presented with the Presidential Service Badge by the commander of the White House Communication Agency (WHCA). Hostetler has been mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle since February 2002, serving at the WHCA. She was the first guardsman or reservist to receive the award.

The Air National Guard Fitness Program (ANGFP)

The goal of the ANGFP is to motivate all members to participate in a year round physical conditioning program emphasizing total fitness to meet mission requirements.

There are five components to the ANGFP:

Body Composition. The first component of the ANGFP measures body composition, which is crucial measurement for many reasons. First, excess body fat is associated with a number of health risks, including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, gall bladder disease and sleep disorders. This is especially important because more and more people have unhealthy excess fat in addition to being overweight. The body composition assessment includes height, weight and waist measurement using a tape measurement at the navel. Information on the taping procedures can be obtained from the Fitness Program Manager or Unit Fitness Program Manager.

Cardiovascular. The second component consists of the cardiovascular assessment and tests the fitness of your heart and circulatory system (or more specifically, the heart's ability to pump oxygen-rich blood to the muscles). Cardiovascular fitness is a good indicator of your risk of heart disease, hypertension, arteriosclerosis and a host of other diseases. Because heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, this is the critical area of fitness.

Cardiovascular (aerobic) fitness is assessed by a three-minute step test. The first part of the Cardio assessment is a resting pulse to determine the fitness of the heart when it is at rest. This is not included in the fitness assessment calculation; rather it is taken as a precautionary test before other more intense activities are undertaken.

The next part of the Cardio assessment is to determine the fitness of the heart at work and its ability to cope with physical exertion. This is accomplished by raising the heart rate using a 3-minute step test.

Utilizing an exercise step, step up one foot at a time and step down one foot at a time at a regulated cadence.

The final portion of the Cardio assessment is a recovery heart rate, which is obtained by taking a radial pulse at the conclusion of the three-minute step test for 1 full minute.

Flexibility. The third component tests your flexibility (sit and reach), which tests the rotational ability of the body's mid section including hips, hamstrings, lower back and groin. Take your shoes off and sit down on the floor with your legs fully extended. Your toes should point straight up and not be pulled back towards the body or pointing forward away from the body. Sit fully upright and extend your arms forward with one hand placed over the other. To warm up, after taking a deep breath, you should exhale as you lean forward from the waist with your chin on your chest and reach for your toes. When you feel slight tightness in the hamstring, groin or

back you should hold that position for a few seconds and then relax.

Abdominal muscular endurance and upper body muscular strength. Muscular endurance measures your ability to exert a sub-maximal force over a period of time. Muscular strength is a measurement of the greatest amount of force you can produce in a single maximal effort. Adequate muscular endurance and strength - the fourth and fifth components of the ANGFP - are essential ingredients to optimal health, facilitating participation in everyday activities. Muscular endurance and strength is assessed through the sit-up (endurance) and push-up (strength) tests. The standards for these assessments are also age and gender based.

The correct method of a full sit up: raising their upper body fully off the floor, curling the spine on the way up, until their elbows touch any part of their thigh or knees and then return back to the starting position with the back and shoulder blades once again touch the floor. This is one repetition.

Men - Place your hands on the floor, slightly wider than shoulder width apart, with your fingers pointing forward and feet no more than 12 inches apart.

Women - Place your hands on the floor, slightly wider than shoulder width apart, with your fingers pointing forward. Lower your knees and raise your feet 6 inches off the floor.

Lower your upper body down until your upper arms are at least parallel to the floor, or your elbows are bent at 90 degrees, then return to starting position.

Consultation with a physician is highly encouraged before embarking on a new diet or exercise program!

Note: Do not exercise, smoke or consume caffeine for at least 2 hours prior to the actual fitness assessment.

SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Sesame Place Offer Free Day For Military

Anheuser-Busch has announced it will give free single-day admission to its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and up to four of their direct dependents, beginning the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and concluding Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The offer also has been extended to all coalition forces serving with U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Operation Salute" will give free admission at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay; Busch Gardens Williamsburg; SeaWorld Orlando; SeaWorld San Diego; SeaWorld San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa. Universal Orlando and Disney World are also formulating special offers for returning U.S. military which will be announced soon. For more details, see <http://www.anheuser-busch.com/news/OperationSalute.htm>

Logistics Squadron Becomes “Logistics Readiness Squadron”

By Master Sgt. Gene Kesecker

Wing organizational structures have been examined and changed to create a more flexible and efficient Air Force and Air National Guard as a result of the Combat Wing Organization Programming Plan. The new organizational structure has noticeably impacted the 167th Logistics Squadron, which is now known by its new name, the “Logistics Readiness Squadron,” or LRS.

The detailed structural change incorporates the new Logistics Readiness Officer (LRO) career field initiative, merging Supply, Transportation and Logistics Plans into the LRS. The placement of LRS, along with the Contracting Squadron, Aerial Port Squadron and other support squadrons, into the existing Support Group now form the new group named “Mission Support Group.”

The enhancement of the way we deliver air and space power in the future is the driving force behind the creation of the new wing structure.

167th Joins Nationwide Crackdown on Seatbelt Violators

Military combat isn’t the only threat to the safety of U.S. servicemen and women. Traffic crashes remain the leading killer, and that’s why the 167th Airlift Wing will partner with more than 12,000 state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies in a nationwide crackdown against seatbelt violators. The enforcement blitz comes as data show that more men and women in uniform die in traffic crashes than any other cause. *Click It or Ticket* starts May 19, 2003, and continues through Memorial Day holiday and ends on June 1, 2003.

“While we are doing everything we can to protect families from unpredictable threats, we must continue to address the most predictable and leading risk our families and military face every day – traffic crashes,” said Chief Master Sgt. John H. Alderton, Installation Chief of Security Forces.

Deaths among military personnel occurring in private motor vehicle crashes are up 35 percent from 2001. In the fiscal year 2002, 321 military personnel across all services lost their lives in traffic crashes. Tragically, nearly half of those young servicemen who failed to wear seatbelts could have survived if they had buckled up. Military personnel by virtue of age and gender typically epitomize the low belt user: males ages 18-34.

That is why teens and young adults will continue to be a key target of *Click It or Ticket*. Fatality rates for teens are twice that of older drivers, and the risk of crashes for teens is four times that of older drivers. According to new data from the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA), 7,772 teens, ages 16-20, died in traffic crashes in 2002 — nearly a six percent increase from 2001 — and thousands more were injured.

The two-week enforcement wave, which runs from May 19 through the Memorial Day holiday, ending on June 1, 2003, will be supported by more than \$20 million in state and national advertising. It is based on a proven public health model to increase belt use called “high visibility enforcement.”

During the national *Click It or Ticket Mobilization*, the 167th Security Forces Squadron will intensify enforcement of child passenger safety laws, seatbelt laws and impaired driving laws by setting up traffic control points randomly on the base, as well as the checking personnel while entering or departing the installation. Additionally, their patrols, both motorized and bicycle, will be conducting selective enforcement on the use of seatbelts. Drivers failing to restrain themselves and their child passengers will be ticketed according to the law.

Click It or Ticket high visibility enforcement relies on periods of intense enforcement of seatbelt laws coupled with aggressive advertising and media outreach to let people know about the enforcement. For many non-seatbelt users, and especially young people, the threat of a ticket has proven to be a greater inducement to buckle up than the threat of injury or death.

“We don’t leave our young servicemen and women on the battlefield and we shouldn’t leave them on the highway either,” said Chuck Hurley, executive director of the Air Bag & Seatbelt Safety Campaign and a vice president at the National Safety Council. “The fact that our armed forces are not immune to these preventable tragedies is cause enough to make seatbelt enforcement a national priority,” said Hurley, who previously served as a naval officer.

The *Mobilization* is conducted twice yearly by the Air Bag & Seatbelt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, state highway safety offices, NHTSA and the National Transportation Safety Board. The *Mobilization* is also part of Buckle Up America, an ongoing NHTSA initiative to increase belt use and save lives.

The 167th Airlift Wing participates in the *Mobilizations* because they work. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported recently that child fatalities from traffic crashes have declined by 20 percent since 1997, when the *Mobilizations* began. The DOT has credited the *Mobilizations* for significantly contributing to this decline and for dramatically increasing child restraint use.

Retirements

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
1st. Lt. Neil R. Rock May 1

Bill Seeks Tuition Refunds for Reserves, Guard

Stars and Stripes reports that Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas, has introduced a bill that would give refunds to activated reservists and guardsmen enrolled in colleges and universities, but unable to attend because they were called into service. The bill, H.R. 1323, titled "Reservists and National Guard

Opportunities and Protection of Education Act," calls for institutions of higher education to refund tuitions and fees to students called up for active duty; grant students a military leave of absence, and restore students' academic statuses with regard to credits earned, scholarships or grants when they return to their schooling. Roughly 30 percent of all Reserves and guardsmen are enrolled in colleges, universities or other institutions of higher learning. The bill will be referred to the House Education and Work Force Committee. No hearing or decision date has been set for Congress to work on the bill. For more on education benefits, a scholarship database, a school finder, and more, visit

<http://www.military.com/Education/SchoolLocator?ESRC=mr.nl>

DOD Revises Smallpox Vaccination Policy

Officials will now screen those taking the smallpox vaccine for risk factors, including tobacco use, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and family history of heart disease. People with three or more of those conditions would be exempted. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta are investigating whether a sequence of cardiac deaths was associated with the vaccine.

Military members receiving the vaccine are those deployed or deploying to a U.S. Central Command area of operation; those who would go into a smallpox outbreak area to help control the disease; and health care workers at DOD hospitals and clinics who would treat smallpox patients. There is no plan to vaccinate everyone in the military at this time.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Saddam Hussein's regime is history and the process of returning Iraq to the Iraqi people has begun. American troops will be in Iraq as long as required and not one day longer. Iraq has to figure out how to govern itself in the future."

*Gen. Richard B. Myers,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

It may seem like a mouthful to say Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, but try saying Chinese-Japanese-Korean-Filipino-Vietnamese-Thai-Cambodian-Laotian-Hmong-Indian-Pakistani-Bangladeshi-Afghan-Polynesian-Melanesian American Heritage Month.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month — a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month originated in a Congressional bill put forward by legislators.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On Oct. 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities and educational activities for students. The Asian Pacific American Heritage Council has chosen the theme for 2003 to be "Salute to Liberty."

New Cards Are Secure, Ready

The high-tech identification Common Access Card, or CAC, currently replacing familiar green IDs worldwide is secure and proven in combat, despite some rumors to the contrary. Air Force officials said that security risks were thoroughly researched before common access cards were issued.

The common access cards are not only secure and safe but also provide required Geneva Conventions information in the event an airman is captured. The card does not contain any personal information electronically that isn't already printed on the card. What it does is allow for electronic access to computer systems that contain personal data. An extra layer of protection is provided when a card is reported lost or the cardholder goes into missing or captured status. At that point computer and data system access is turned off.

Common access cards should be issued across the Department of Defense by October to all eligible Air Force active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians and some contractors. For more information, go to <http://www.af.mil/news/Apr2003/42203156.shtml>



Joe Martin
Cabinet Secretary
Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
Bldg. 6, Room B122
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston WV 25305-0120

Dear Secretary Martin:

With the activation of United States military personnel for service both overseas and to protect our homeland, the West Virginia Insurance Commission recognizes there are concerns regarding military personnel who hold insurance licenses. In order to avoid imposing additional burdens and hardships on those who have been called upon to serve their country, we remain cognizant of the fact that some producers may be unable to fulfill certain licensing renewal requirements and/or continuing education requirements associated with their insurance producer license. Please be advised I have granted a waiver of license renewal requirements, including fees, and will grant an extension of time for completion of continuing education requirements once these individuals are released from active duty and return to work.

I would appreciate your assistance with notifying all troops that this waiver of insurance license renewal and extension of time for completing continuing education requirements exists. The Commission is requesting that all affected individuals notify our licensing division upon their return home and provide a copy of their activation order to document our files.

Because the Insurance Commission may not be notified in advance of activation of military personnel, some licenses may be terminated for non-renewal and some licenses may receive notices of suspension for non-compliance with continuing education requirements. Records will be corrected upon notice and proof of activation being provided to my office.

Our thoughts are with those serving in the military and their families during these difficult and uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Cline
West Virginia Insurance Commissioner

Cc: Richard Stevens, Executive Director
West Virginia Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
2003 Quarrier St.
Charleston WV 25311

L. Gray Marion, Executive Vice President
Professional Independent Insurance Agents of WV
PO Box 1226
Charleston WV 25324-1226

Low Interest Rates Good For Service members

Interest rates for mortgage loans remain at a low not seen in decades. If you are a service member or veteran thinking about purchasing a home, or you are interested in refinancing your current mortgage at a lower interest rate, you can find valuable information online at Military.com. In addition to providing free information on VA loans and conventional loans, Military.com has a short online form service members can fill out to receive more information.

The service is free, and the form can be accessed at http://www.military.com/Finance/Content?file=apply_for_loan.htm&area=Content?ESRC=MR.nl



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY.....

May 20, 1951 — Capt. James Jabara became the first U.S. Air Force jet ace.

May 3, 1952 — A C-47 made the first successful landing at the North Pole.

May 28, 1959 — Monkeys Able and Baker were recovered alive from the Atlantic Ocean near Antigua Island after a flight to an altitude of 300 miles in the nose cone of a Jupiter missile launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

May 1, 1960 — The Soviet Union shot down a U-2 surveillance plane piloted by Capt. Francis Gary Powers. Powers was tried and convicted as a U.S. spy and sentenced to 60 years in prison. Two years later he was exchanged for a Soviet spy.

May 11, 1964 — The XB-70 Valkyrie, built by North American Aviation, rolled out at Palmdale, Calif. Designed to fly three times the speed of sound and at altitudes above 70,000 feet, the 275-ton aircraft measured 185 feet in length and 105 feet in wingspan.

May 12, 1980 — The KC-10 Extender made its first flight.



Military Appreciation Month Begins May 1

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Organizers for National Military Appreciation Month are asking Americans to show their appreciation for the military by displaying the American flag and the POW/MIA flag May 1 through Flag Day on June 14.

In 1999, a resolution was passed in Congress proclaiming May as National Military Appreciation Month. The month remembers those who gave their lives in defense of the nation's freedom and honors those Americans who have served their country, and the men and women now serving in uniform on active duty, in the National Guard and Reserve and all of their families. More than 80 million Americans have served in uniform in more than 225 years of American history.

May includes Loyalty Day (May 1), VE Day (May 8), Military Spouse Day (May 9), Armed Forces Day (May 17) and Memorial Day (May 30).

"Whether we are at war or peace, we must let our men and women know we appreciate all that they do and have done for us," said Alice Wax, the event's executive director. "My late husband, a (World War II) veteran, was a strong supporter of the military, and I felt strongly about finding a way to honor our service members."

Event organizers are asking all Americans to remember, honor and appreciate the military by displaying U.S. flags and yellow ribbons on cars, homes, businesses and in classrooms.

For further information, go to the National Military Appreciation Month Web Site.

Lt. Col. Eric Vollmecke Receives Recognition Coin

At the staff meeting held the morning of Saturday UTA, Col. Jesse Thomas presented Lt. Col. Eric W. Vollmecke with the Warriors' Coin. These coins come from AMC, and each group commander has two to distribute to exceptional members of his or her command.

Col. Thomas cited the dedicated and exceptional efforts that Col. Eric Vollmecke has made as a member of the 167th Operations Group since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Col. Vollmecke has been deployed for a large part of the past two years, traveling to Germany to participate in Operation Joint Forge from November 2001 through March 2002, then again traveling to Oman with the Guard beginning in May 2002.

He was recently promoted to the job of State Director of Operations at the State Headquarters Staff, working for Gen. James Crawford, and he now frequently flies with both Charleston and Martinsburg units.



167th AIRLIFT WING STRATEGIC PLAN 2003

VISION

A WORLD CLASS AIRLIFT WING CAPITALIZING ON OUR STRENGTHS AS A MILITIA
FORCE TO ACCOMPLISH ANY MISSION, ANY PLACE, ANY TIME

MISSION

MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STATE OF READINESS FOR THOSE WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

VALUES

+INTEGRITY +SERVICE +EXCELLENCE +PATRIOTISM

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- PURSUE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT NEW STRATEGIC AIRLIFT MISSION
- MEET ALL AEF AND HIGHER HEADQUARTERS TASKINGS
- IMPLEMENT PLAN FOR COMPLETION OF EORI BY DECEMBER 2004
- DEVELOP MENTORING PROGRAMS IN EACH SQUADRON
- STRIVE FOR AN END STRENGTH OF 100%
- STRIVE FOR ZERO SAFETY MISHAPS THROUGH SOUND RISK MANAGEMENT
- OUTSTANDING RATING ON THE UNIT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
- CONTINUE TO ENHANCE FAMILY READINESS AWARENESS TO FAMILY MEMBERS